

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

April 20, 2020

The Honorable Steven Mnuchin
Secretary of the Treasury
Department of the Treasury
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20220

Dear Secretary Mnuchin,

We write today regarding the Department of the Treasury's implementation of the Coronavirus Relief Fund ("CRF"), as authorized by Section 5001 of P.L. 116-136, the CARES Act ("the CARES Act"). Specifically, we ask that you clarify that CRF funds provided to State, local, and Tribal (SLTT) governments can be applied towards fulfilling, either wholly or in part, federal cost-share requirements that have become excessively burdensome as a result of the 2019 Novel Coronavirus ("COVID-19") pandemic.

Since passage of P.L. 116-123, the Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act, on March 5th, Congress has made hundreds of billions of dollars available to SLTT governments through a range of federal grant programs and other funding mechanisms. Funds made available through these measures supplement existing federal programs and funding mechanisms that SLTT governments have drawn extensively from in the course of responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. Many of these programs carry local cost-share requirements that in several instances cannot be waived at the sole discretion of the administering agency. Given the dramatic costs associated with the response to and the adverse revenue effects triggered by the COVID-19 pandemic, these local-cost share requirements have in some cases become functionally impossible for SLTT governments to meet with their current and projected financial resources. Subsequently, we fear that these local cost-share requirements may prevent key federal funding sources from being fully utilized at their time of greatest need and efficacy.

To ensure that SLTT governments can maintain—and expand—their existing efforts to combat the COVID-19 pandemic we ask that you affirm the applicability of CRF funds towards fulfilling these requirements. The CARES Act does not limit how CRF funds are used by SLTT governments so long as they are applied towards necessary and not previously budgeted for expenditures incurred as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic; we believe SLTT expenditures to fulfill local cost-share requirements associated with federal funds used to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic clearly satisfy the CRF's criteria. While we will continue to work with our colleagues in Congress to waive local-cost share requirements where necessary and applicable, we urge you provide clear and immediate clarification regarding this matter so that our constituent SLTT governments may access the full extent of COVID-19 pandemic assistance without further concern or delay.

Sincerely,



Patty Murray
United States Senator



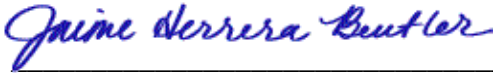
Maria Cantwell
United States Senator



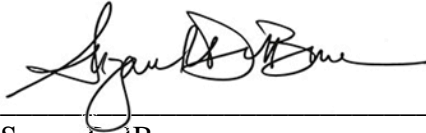
Adam Smith
Member of Congress



Rick Larsen
Member of Congress



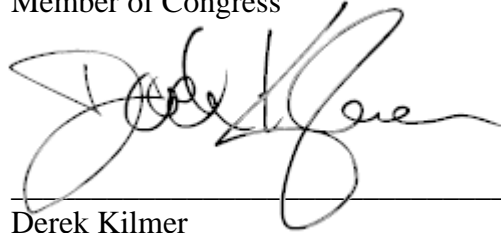
Jamie Herrera Beutler
Member of Congress



Suzan DelBene
Member of Congress



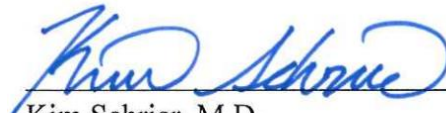
Denny Heck
Member of Congress



Derek Kilmer
Member of Congress



Pramila Jayapal
Member of Congress



Kim Schrier, M.D.
Member of Congress